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Mr. and Mrs. HANNIBAL A. WILLIAMS.

AUGUST 15th, TUESDAY EVENING.
 Mr. H. H. WILLIAMS, A. WILLIAMS, and
 "THE TRAMP-ST."

Shakespeare's "Tide and Time" (and Instruments)
 as by Mr. Arthur Sullivan.

AUGUST 16th, SATURDAY EVENING,
 Mr. H. H. WILLIAMS, A. WILLIAMS, in-
 "THE HENRY VIII."

Shakespeare's "Historical Drama, with the Harp and
 Chorus of the July 24th."

AUGUST 17th, WEDNESDAY EVENING,
 Mrs. H. H. WILLIAMS, A. WILLIAMS, in-
 "THE MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

Shakespeare's "Magical Comedy, with Vocal
 and Instrumental Music."

AUGUST 18th, SATURDAY EVENING,
 Mrs. H. H. WILLIAMS, A. WILLIAMS, in-
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Shakespeare's "Romantic Comedy."
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all possible clues and in the following are to be found in all the village
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three million readers in England and America. The names of these books are familiar enough to Philip Strong, "His Brother's Keeper," "The Twentieth Door," are among the best known, and the characteristic features of what this author has written is suggested by the titles. The story is the return of the fidelity towards the Christ-like ideal of conduct and motive as illustrated in the central figures of their drama. Of course this is a strong conception to begin with. The story-

We have been told that the Land of Ophir was to be found in Peru, but the sound of the word for this ingenious theory seemed to lie in the similarity of the names in sound. Sir Walter Raleigh declared that it was to the Moluccas Solomon sent his ships, and there, first, the locality of the gold or malacca, and, second, in years there seems to be a growing tendency amongst geographers to select the East Coast of Africa as the most likely place, and it is this theory that Dr. Carl Peters's discovery is said to support. Can anybody doubt what?

of our St. Petersburg correspondents we have recently read particulars of a festival put with a view to honouring the memory of the national poet. For days in advance notice else was talked of, and fabulous prices were realised for rooms for the three days during which the festival was to last, and the programme was to be the productions composed of the principal characters from the poet's works. The ancient Palace of Tsarvid and the splendid grounds attached were turned into a flower show, the gardens richly

weary of the effort to invent a new binding-thread of interest for their plots and stories, just as their readers complain that the old threadbare scheme of the old threadbare stories is not vital enough to sustain the attention of the reader. But Mr. Sheldon supplies this. He knows that the ideal of faith, as Thomas à Kempis says, is in essential opposition to the natural ideal in all the relations of life, and while other storywriters have been content with illustrating a more or less vague sentiment of self-sacrifice or abstract duty, this new story-writer has canonised it as the all-governing and imperative motive. One does not want to examine into the idealism of the story, but to know the impact of a fixed idea and actual rule of conduct like this would come into incessant and dramatic conflict with the selfish aims and personal concerns of everyday life. We want to vary our story, and we want to vary the surroundings with the persons, to get a continually changing but always vividly interesting contrast between the ideal and the actual.

But while saying so much for Mr. Sheldon, I must not forget to say what is to be found in Mashonaland point to a degree of culture which is not possessed by the natives of the present day. Mr. Bent in "The Ruined Cities of Mashonaland" tells us that the ruins of the past, and though perhaps have differed from him as to the civilisation of the people who erected the buildings whose ruins he describes, they agree in the main that they belong to an epoch very far back in history. The only guide to an answer to this is to be found in the ruins of their principal station at Zimbabwe, where, in addition to a fort, they built a temple which corresponds in general design to the one devoted to the worship of Baal. This would imply that they came originally from Southern Arabia, and if they were a colony from that part of the world their former neighbours would have opportunities for social and commercial relationship with them. This relationship would account for the fact that Solomon knew of the resources of Ophir—presuming always that Ophir was the country we now know as East Africa.

There is then in the legends we have been considering a certain amount of

the theatre Pashkin's pieces were performed or read. Almost all the members of the Imperial family assisted at the festival, and besides a special opera performance, on this occasion there was also a cantata upon the subject in honour of the poet by the Grand Duke Constantine. The St. Petersburg festival is described as being one of the grandest imaginable, and in troubled parts of the empire, such as the provinces of the Helsingfors, all party to the festival for the time put on one side in the effort to fittingly celebrate the great event.

The particulars of these Pashkin celebrations in Russia are of more than passing interest, and the way in which they furnish a very striking instance of a nation exerting itself to the utmost to show its appreciation and respect for the memory of one of its greatest men is a lesson in this way it affords an object lesson to the world. Moreover, it is not a case of the people tardily awakening to a perception of the genius of an author long after he has passed away. Short as was Pashkin's life, he was a man of a high commanding position, the ruler of a

of the published results may be accepted as its best credential, there is something to be added about the conflict his theory has been described as setting up between the story and the theory. The following are the facts which have reached us. Mr. Sheldon first began the writing of these wonderfully popular exercises of fiction in order to interest the Sunday evening attendants at his Congregational Church in Kansas City. He was not, however, at least not interested, by the ordinary sermon. We are told that the preacher spent his holidays studying life in its various phases, and that he strung the results together in the form of a novel. The chief idea of the usual sermon to his Sunday evening congregations. It is not often, by the way, that an ambitious but unskilled author can make himself so certain of an audience for his mission. It is, however, a certain hand, is doubtful if any other intellectual exercise known exists so much of the earnestness, the interest, and the personal vanity of the person who undertakes it as the early literary efforts of a

ordinary amateur has to be content with a patient victim here and there, and editors became notoriously ingenious in eluding the snares and traps he sets for their attention. But the prosaic and unambitious writer did not and is not to be appealed against. If he can put into his utterances from that rostrum of authority even a fraction of the consuming mental energy which the literary amateur so lavishly wastes, he is bound to find employment on the exercise of his fancy or unconscious imitation, he will at least interest if he does not astonish the ordinary congregation. Mr. Sheldon tried this experiment, and in coming to the aid of his talent as a storyteller he produced a literary result which has won the attentive perusal of millions of readers whom no human voice, however powerful, could ever have reached or stirred. He has been overhauling his old copy-books, and the contrasted influence of the voice and the pen. The written word may spread over a wider radius, but the influence of the spoken word is more direct on those whom it reaches, and is more generally communicated.

spirit quickeneth while the letter killeth. But we are to accept this as final, or assume on the other hand from the phenomenal success of Mr. Sheldon's series of articles in the *Review*, that the influence of the pulpit is expiring, and that the man and woman of the future will turn from the preacher to the written page in search of intellectual interest, or direction, or instruction? It is hardly of the kind to which an absolute answer can be given one way or the other. So much depends on the personal equation, which is always more or less involved in every question of this kind. There is no need of attention. There are preachers and preachers; just as there are story-writers and story-writers. If there had not been something real and vital in Mr. Sheldon's work as a storyteller, his essays on writing fiction would have failed, just as the efforts of other unappreciated writers, and the number of these is legion. He attracted the attention of his Sunday evening congregations by putting human interest and the new life into his written discourses.

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and no art beyond those supplied by earnestness and faith. If earnest human sympathy is behind these efforts of the humblest preacher, he need never despair either of appreciation or of usefulness.

Dr. Carl Peters claims that certain ruins which he has discovered on the Zambesi point to the identity of the country with the "Land of Ophir." This reviveth a discussion which has excited the interest of scholars through many centuries. This wonderful land to which King Solomon used to send ships, where was it? The ships used to bring back sandalwood and gold and precious stones and so forth, and the world is at least as anxious now as it was in Solomon's time to possess some of these desirable commodities, and the imagination of the scholars and divines and explorers have been engaged in the examination of

These were to be printed and published by the Imperial Academy of Sciences in time for the Pushkin festival in June, and forty thousand copies were subscribed for in advance by Italian booksellers. As the date of the jubilee drew nearer, more and more interest began to be displayed throughout Russia, and in a measure all over Europe. We can understand this better when we remember the great part that Pushkin plays in all Russian life. Every Russian who can read knows his works by heart; his verses are the first learnt at school, and his novels have been so often applied to by the readers of both sexes. Moreover, his tales have been made the subjects of operas by the Russian composers, Tchaikofsky and Glinka, and the melodic words of his verse have become popular favourites. Cheap editions of his works have penetrated to the remotest provinces, and

VICTORIAN NEWS.—His Excellency the Governor and also Lady Mary Lygon and Lady Bessie Willsbush, dined with Major-General and Mrs. Willsbush, at 12, Cadogan Place, on Monday last evening. Lady Bessie-bush will witness the football match England v. New South Wales to-day. In the evening his Excellency will entertain the English ladies at a dinner at Grosvenor House. To-morrow evening Lady Mary Lygon will leave by train for Brisbane, on a visit to Lord and Lady Lygon. On Monday evening the Governor will be aboard the *Manley* for a trip to Parkes and Forbes.

THE GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND.—Lord and Lady Langhorne have booked by the Orient Company for the 11th of September, and will leave Sydney on September 1st for London.

NEW BRICKS IN PARLIAMENT.—Although the sitting of the Legislative Assembly yesterday was simply made up by the Government to be utilized for the purpose of allowing members to attend at Government House to present his Excellency with the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, yet the House was used for discussion. Notice was also given of the intention on the part of members to introduce new legislation.

Pine of Australian produce in the London market continues to rise. Continental opinion is slightly better to the effect that wool would fall from the year extended has so far been weak out. This week's quotations for Bradford No. 1 are higher for 60's common, and 12 for 60's extra, and 10 for 60's extra.	June 30	78	1003	1013	81.41
	July 1	78	1003	1013	81.41
	July 2	78	1003	1013	81.41
	July 3	78	1003	1013	81.41
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	July 10	78	1003	1013	81.41
	July 11	78	1003	1013	81.41
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	July 29	78	1003	1013	81.41
	July 30	78	1003	1013	81.41
	July 31	78	1003	1013	81.41
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	Aug 30	78	1003	1013	81.41
	Aug 31	78	1003	1013	81.41
	Sep 1	78	1003	1013	81.41
	Sep 2	78	1003	1013	81.41
	Sep 3	78	1003	1013	81.41

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...and medicine, but I got no relief. I was so low-spirited and miserable I didn't care what became of me. As time passed I grew weaker

At the breakfast table, the president stated that we were on the road to a healthy economy and that the administration would continue to work for the benefit of the people.

AUCTIONEERS' SEPTEMBER 1991

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Housekeeper, 109 Phillips-St.; 2 S'ld Register,
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